REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 9, 2004 (Paper No. 6). Claims 1 to 22 are pending in the application, with Claim 22 having been added. Claims 1 to 3, 9 to 11, 14, 17 and 19 to 21 have been amended. Claims 1, 9, 17 and 19 to 21 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 6, 9 to 14, 17 and 19 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,608,545 (Kagawa) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,255,321 (Koshiishi); Claims 7 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kagawa in view of Koshiishi and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,148,470 (Kobayashi); and Claims 8, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kagawa in view of Koshiishi and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,185,195 (Leung). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns communication in which a first communication apparatus is capable of a first speech communication via a first communication line, and a second communication apparatus is capable of a second speech communication via the first communication line or a second communication line. A change of a connection status can be detected between the first and second communication apparatuses. A speech communication is switched between the first speech communication via the first communication line by first speech means and the second speech communication via the first communication line by second speech means, in accordance with detecting a change of a connection status. According to one feature of the invention,

the speech communication over the first communication line is maintained even if there is a switch between the first speech communication and the second speech communication.

By virtue of the foregoing, in which the speech communication over the first communication line is maintained even if there is a switch between the first speech communication and the second speech communication, speech communication among multiple communication lines is made more reliable.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 1 as amended is directed to a communication system having a first communication apparatus capable of a first speech communication via a first communication line and a second communication apparatus capable of a second speech communication via the first communication line or a second communication line. The communication system includes first speech means provided for the first communication apparatus for performing the first speech communication, second speech means provided for the second communication apparatus for performing the second speech communication, and detecting means for detecting a change of a connection status between the first communication apparatus and the second communication apparatus. The communication system also includes switching means for switching a speech communication between the first speech communication via the first communication line by the first speech means and the second speech communication via the first communication line by the second speech means, in accordance with detecting the change of the connection status by the detecting means. In addition, the speech communication over the first communication line is maintained even if there is a switch between the first speech communication and the second speech communication.

Independent Claim 9 as amended is directed to a first communication apparatus including first speech means for performing a first speech communication via a first communication line, and detecting means for detecting a change of a connection status between the first communication apparatus and a second communication apparatus, wherein the second communication apparatus is capable of a second speech communication via the first communication line or a second communication line by a second speech means of the second communication apparatus. The first communication apparatus also includes switching means for switching the first speech communication via the first communication line by the first speech means to the second speech communication via the first communication line by the second speech means, in accordance with detecting the change of the connection status by the detecting means. In addition, the speech communication over the first communication line is maintained even if there is a switch between the first speech communication and the second speech communication.

Independent Claim 17 as amended is directed to a second communication apparatus including connecting means for connecting a first communication apparatus, which is capable of first speech communication via a first communication line by a first speech means of the first communication apparatus. In addition, the second communication apparatus includes second speech means for performing a second speech communication via the first communication line or a second communication line, and detecting means for detecting a change of a connection status between the first communication apparatus and a second communication apparatus. The second communication apparatus also includes switching means for switching the first speech

communication via the first communication line by the first speech means ~~to~~ and the second speech communication via the first communication line by the second speech means, in accordance with detecting the change of the connection status by the detecting means. In addition, the speech communication over the first communication line is maintained even if there is a switch between the first speech communication and the second speech communication.

Independent Claim 19 as amended is directed to a control method for a communication system having a first communication apparatus capable of a first speech communication via a first communication line and a second communication apparatus capable of a second speech communication via the first communication line or a second communication line, the first communication apparatus having a first speech device for performing the first speech communication, and the second communication apparatus having a second speech device for performing the second speech communication. The method includes a detecting step of detecting a change of a connection status between the first and second communication apparatus. The method also includes a switching step of switching the first speech communication via the first communication line by the first speech device and the second speech communication via the first communication line by the second speech device, in accordance with detecting the change of the connection status in the switching step. In addition, the speech communication over the first communication line is maintained even if there is a switch between the first speech communication and the second speech communication.

Independent Claim 20 as amended is directed to a control method for a first communication apparatus capable of a first speech communication via a first communication line and having a first speech device for performing the first speech communication. The method includes a detecting step of detecting a change of a connection status between the first and second communication apparatus, wherein the second communication apparatus is capable of a second speech communication via the first communication line or a second communication line and has a second speech device for performing the second speech communication. The method also includes a switching step of switching the first speech communication via the first communication line by the first speech device and the second speech communication via the first communication line by the second speech device, in accordance with detecting the change of the connection status in the switching step. In addition, the speech communication over the first communication line is maintained even if there is a switch between the first speech communication and the second speech communication.

Independent Claim 21 as amended is directed to a control method for a second communication apparatus capable of a second speech communication via the first communication line or a second communication line, and having a second speech device for performing the second speech communication. The method includes a detecting step of detecting a change of a connection status between the first and second communication apparatus, wherein the first communication apparatus is capable of a first speech communication via a first communication line and has a first speech device for performing the first speech communication. The method also includes a switching step of switching

the first speech communication via the first communication line by the first speech device and the second speech communication via the first communication line by the second speech device, in accordance with detecting the change of the connection status. In addition, the speech communication over the first communication line is maintained even if there is a switch between the first speech communication and the second speech communication.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the invention of the subject application. In particular, the Kagawa patent is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of maintaining the speech communication over the first communication line even if there is a switch between the first speech communication and the second speech communication.

As understood by Applicants, Kagawa teaches a facsimile device which can be used with a portable telephone working on a built-in battery. The device has a voltage detecting section for detecting voltage of a battery of the portable telephone and a control section providing controls to inhibit facsimile communication depending on the voltage detected by the voltage detecting section when facsimile communication is executed with the portable telephone. See Kagawa, Abstract; Figure 1.

However, Kagawa is not seen to teach that speech communication will be maintained if the facsimile device and the portable phone are connected to or disconnected from one another while speech communication is in progress. Rather, Kagawa describes a control section for inhibiting facsimile communication depending on detected voltages. As a consequence, Kagawa could not possibly describe that the speech communication over

the first communication line is maintained even if there is a switch between the first speech communication and the second speech communication.

In addition, Koshiishi, Kobayashi and Leung have been reviewed and are not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Kagawa. More specifically, these references are not seen to disclose or suggest that the speech communication over the first communication line is maintained even if there is a switch between the first speech communication and the second speech communication.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing remarks, independent Claims 1, 9, 17 and 19 to 21 are believed to be allowable over the applied references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections are respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 32,622

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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